



## Meeting Minutes

Project: Lower Shawsheen Playground  
Meeting: Community outreach meeting No.1  
Prepared by: Josh Millonig, Warner Larson (WL)  
Date: November 15, 2018  
Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm  
Attendees: Warner Larson: David Warner, Josh Millonig, Sameer Bhoite  
Town: Joe Connelly, Janet Nicosia  
Community: Various members  
Attachment: Images of the presented boards with favored structures noted.  
Community sign in sheet

### PROJECT SCOPE AND CONTEXT

Joe Connelly opened the meeting. He went over overall scope and budget and that the focus was to improve the accessibility of this playground. The Town has allocated \$200K from the Capital Budget for this playground. The Town has a long-term view with plans to upgrade other playgrounds in Town.

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

David Warner presented the current layout of the site and the existing conditions. He reviewed the report generated by the Institute for Human Centered Design (IHCD) and their findings. He focused on the end of life of the playground equipment and the non-conforming aspects of the site and equipment.

Members of the community commented on external conditions that they have observed at and around the playground and surrounding park. Main points that were brought up included:

- Perimeter fences in poor condition.
- Site walls that are run-down and crumbling.
- Site trees that are diseased and some that have been removed.
- Trash accumulation behind the storage shed.
- Difficult parking and hazardous traffic conditions due to poor parking opportunities.
- Buckled sidewalks.
- No trash receptacles, leading to litter left in the park
- Dog waste, due to no trash receptacles.
- Trespassing through the Condominium parking lot (private parking lot).
- The fence that the Condo owns is being pushed over as a direct line of access to the playground. Places a burden on the Condo association to repair.
- No signage to direct people and vehicles on where to go and park.
- Typical park users are soccer players. Families with siblings will use the playground when one child is playing soccer.
- Adult users play on the weekend. Alcohol consumption observed along with the games, contributes to the littering problems.
- Track is used for children learning to ride bicycles.
- Age demographic is mainly 5-12yr old children.

- Playground seems to be mostly a local/neighborhood park. Not a lot of destination drivers coming to use the park. Difficulty of parking appears to be the main deterrent.
- There are other playgrounds that have better parking facilities within close proximity and provide a better draw (Penguin Park and Ballardvale Park)

Joe reminded the group that the focus of the project is within the boundaries of the park and is to address the accessibility of the playground.

### **EQUIPMENT OPTIONS**

Josh Millionig presented the three (3) approved playground vendors that the Town uses. He walked through the overall design concepts and how various layouts and configurations provide different experiences. Sameer Bhoite expanded upon the design explanations and the various options each manufacturer offered. He touched on cost implications and other variables of equipment selection that will have to be accounted for in the overall project.

During the presentation of the equipment manufacturers we received questions and comments from the community on the various structure types and configurations. After the product presentation the community was invited to ask questions and were given red stickers to note what types of playground equipment they liked and would be incorporated into the design.

### **KEY DECISION AND ACTIONS**

#### Parking

**Decision:** There shall be NO access from the Balmoral Parking Lot which is a private parking lot reserved for the "Balmoral Condominium" Complex

**Action:** New Park design shall factor in proper signage and aesthetic landscape barriers that would deter residents/guests from using this as an access point

**Action:** Town (Director of Planning) confirmed that the Parking Lot off Balmoral Street next to the Soccer Shed belongs to the Town. With the existing stone columns and parking, this will need signage to denote as "Main Entrance" to the park along with signage to denote it as parking for the Park.

**Decision:** The entrance off York Street shall also remain as park users who park on York Street use the 2 entrances. The one closer to the playground will be made ADA accessible with an accessible gate

**Decision:** There will be an accessible path from the Parking Lot by Shed connecting to the new ADA pathway heading to the playground.

#### Site Infrastructure

**Decision:** Town will be responsible for fixing the sidewalk infrastructure by the York Street Park Entrance that will be made accessible.

**Decision:** The track around the soccer field is not part of this project.

**Decision:** The fence repairs around the Balmoral Condominium complex are not part of this project scope.

**Decision:** The trees surrounding the park on York Street or any other trees that in decay or removed outside the limits of the playground will not be addressed during this phase

**Action:** There was a request to buffer the portable toilet better but this will not be addressed during this phase but a recommendation can be made.

**Decision:** The existing stone dust surfacing is not considered ADA accessible in all weather and the new pathway shall be asphalt.

**Decision:** There will be no lighting at the playground. Facilities Director mentioned that from their studies at Andover Parks, they felt lighting encouraged vandalism.

**Decision:** There will be a trash bin provided

**Action:** The new playground boundaries and surfacing material will need to be approved by the Zoning commission as this is under the Flood Plain and Wetland Protection Act.

#### Playground Ideas

- Discussed some of the Andover playgrounds in general.
- Group agreed that it is good to have each park have its own identity whether thematic or play structure or choice of colors
- Residents feel that the track at the Ballardvale Playground seems littered with play toys that are left behind and want to avoid that.
- Swings are popular but they take lot of space. The idea of a basket swing that is also accessible and accommodates more users was well received but there will be in addition traditional swings as well (Quantity TBD based on space/budget)
- Residents mentioned that the picnic table is used by the soccer kids on the weekends and have noticed lot of trash. The picnic table surfacing collects sap and is not easy to maintain besides being in a location not easy to monitor
- Some residents like to see this with a nature river theme with nature colors but others like some of the modern equipment with bolder colors.
- **Decision:** A desire for a splash pad was mentioned since there is a water connection but it was agreed that a splash pad would be a better fit at one of the other larger Andover playgrounds and not here due to limited size and budget.
- **Decision:** New play structure should not offer hiding spaces to deter illegal activities
- **Decision:** New play structure will be primarily for the 5-12 age group but there will be other play elements such as swings, spinner or see-saw that can be used by the younger kids.
- **Decision:** The surfacing material shall be primarily Poured-In-Place (PIP) rubber surfacing (fully ADA compliant) as much as possible but certain parts of the playground may still use Engineered Wood Fiber mulch with PIP accessible path.
- **Decision:** A new picnic table will be provided that allows rain water to go through and will be located in a more visible spot in the playground
- **Decision:** There will be some hardcourt pavement play and 4 square was desired. No basketball hoops or teether-ball (has maintenance related issues)

#### Next Steps

- Residents voted their preference on choice of Playground Equipment. The boards are attached to the end of this report.
- The Town will make this report available to the community. Town will solicit more feedback on the same from those who were not able to attend the meeting

- Warner Larson Design Team will synthesize these into 2 different design schemes at the second meeting (TBD) for the neighborhood to choose from.

End of meeting notes

These notes are intended to represent the topics discussed accurately. Please notify author of any corrections, clarifications or additions upon receipt. Revised notes will be redistributed; otherwise, these notes will serve as the record for this meeting.



## 2-5 AGE GROUP



A1

## 5-12 AGE GROUP



A2

## OTHER UNIQUE PLAY COMPONENTS



A5



A3



A6



A4



A7

## MEETING #1





## 2-5 AGE GROUP

## 5-12 AGE GROUP

## OTHER UNIQUE PLAY COMPONENTS



B1



B2



B3



B4

**MEETING #1**



B5



B6



B7



B10



B13



B14



B8



B11



B15



B9



B12



B16

## LOWER SHAWSHEEN PLAYGROUND LSI EQUIPMENT OPTIONS

November 15, 2018



NOTES A SELECTION BY COMMUNITY  
FROM MEETING 11/15/18





## 2-5 AGE GROUP

## 5-12 AGE GROUP

## OTHER UNIQUE PLAY COMPONENTS



C1



C4



C8



C11



C2



C5



C9



C12



C3



C6



C10



C7

## MEETING #1





## INSPIRATION IDEAS



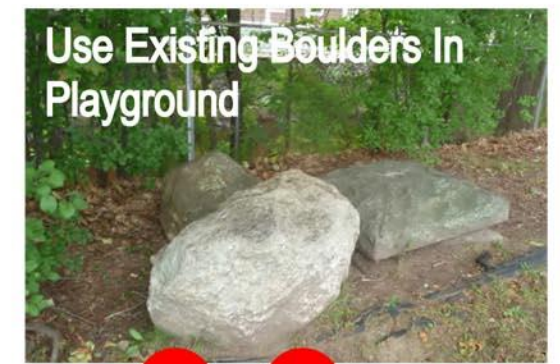
D1



D5



D9



D15



D2



D6



D10



D11



D16



D3



D7



D12



D17



D4



D8



D13



D14



D18

## MEETING #1



## LOWER SHAWSHEEN PLAYGROUND DESIGN INSPIRATION AND RELATED COMPONENTS

November 15, 2018



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FROM MEETING 11/15/18





## Senior Center

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